UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 2 4 2002

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Strengthening Science at the Environmental Protection Agency

To: All EPA Employees

It has been a year since I was sworn in as Administrator of EPA, and I have found the experience exhilarating and extremely rewarding. In 2002 and beyond the environmental problems we must address are more complex, and the solutions we must design and implement are equally complex and challenging. Our ability to accomplish our mission and continue to have a meaningful impact on the quality of life for all Americans to a large extent is based on our ability to more fully integrate science into our programs, policies and decisions. Throughout EPA's history our greatest successes have occurred when policies, regulations and decisions are based on the results of appropriate and relevant scientific research.

One of the first actions I took as Administrator was to improve the Agency's policy-making process to better integrate the highest quality science. As part of those improvements, I have decided to create the position of Science Advisor to the Agency. Today, I am appointing the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research & Development as the EPA Science Advisor. As the Science Advisor, Paul Gilman will be positioned to ensure we have the best science to support Agency policies and decisions and to advise me on all future science and technology issues and their relationship to Agency policies, procedures and decisions. In his capacity as Science Advisor, I have asked Paul to:

1) Coordinate with Tom Gibson on the implementation of the recommendations of my Regulatory Development Task Force Review as they relate to the use of science.

2) Review the policies and procedures relating to the operation of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) and make recommendations to me as to how these can be improved. This should include policies and procedures to ensure the avoidance of conflicts of interest within the SAB and undue bias in the makeup of its peer review panels.

3) Develop options for updating and improving the Integrated Risk Information System.

4) Review the interactions between the Regional Laboratories and the Office of Research and Development and make recommendations for improvements in these relationships as appropriate.

5 Review the activities across the Agency relating to the development and use of measurement techniques and make recommendations for any improvements that may be identified.

6) Ensure consistent cross-Agency application of strategic planning for research and use of science.

7) Revitalize the Council on Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM). The CREM develops policy guidance essential for regulatory environmental model development and application (peer review, validation, certification, etc.) in risk assessment, and coordinates population of an Agency-wide models inventory with pedigree and certification data for regulatory decisions.

8) Chair the Agency's Science Policy Council.

I know I can count on each and every employee to do his or her part to support Paul in implementing these important changes. I firmly believe that these changes will strengthen EPA's science foundation and help us address the major environmental challenges on the horizon.

Christine Todd Whitman